

Gaeilge Language Policy

Following our meeting with a representative of Údarás na Gaeltachta on 23rd May 2011, Pobail le Chéile adopted as policy the agreed Language Plan at its meeting on 22nd June 2011.

In particular, Pobail le Chéile resolve to undertake the following actions in relation to the Irish Language:

1. Adopt the plan agreed with Údarás na Gaeltachta on 23/5/11 as company policy
2. Elect a company director to the role of Language Officer.
3. Ensure that we review all company materials and ensure a policy of bi-lingual publishing & communications.
4. The Glór don Phobal newsletter will have at least 25% Gaeilge and the main lead story & headline will always be in Irish.
5. That the company will ensure an affirmative programme of staff recruitment in relation to the Irish language.
(Where there are two candidates with similar experience/qualifications then the candidate with Irish is offered the post first.)
6. Irish will be promoted & facilitated in all the projects & initiatives of Pobail le Chéile, through the use of Irish-language project names, and the use of Irish in their work.
7. That the Board of Directors receive reports on Irish Language promotion in all company projects on a quarterly basis.
8. The company will participate in any local debate and planning for the 20 year strategy of the language.
9. That where resources permit, encouragement and assistance will be given to directors, volunteers and staff to uptake Irish Language education.
10. That the active promotion of the Irish Language is maintained as a core task in all Pobail le Chéile projects and particularly in Family, youth and children's education work.

Irish Language policy and actions update (November 18th 2015)

Much of the work of Pobail le Chéile is undertaken by local volunteers, many of whom are native speakers. We actively urge Irish speakers to support and encourage learners to use whatever Irish they have in a safe and supportive environment within the Pobail Le Chéile projects.

Action 1. Policy

The Irish Language Policy that was adopted at the board meeting of 22/06/2011 and re-affirmed at the company AGM in February 2012 was presented at the board meeting of March 2013 and September 2014 and re-affirmed. Some additional decisions were made and are reflected below.

Action 2. Officer

Language officer for the project is Conor Ó Braonáin who will oversee the implementation of this policy and represents PLC at An Plean Teanga meetings (Máire Nic Fhearraigh acts as alternate).

Action 3. Promotion and Media

Serious efforts are made to make sure press releases and promotional materials contain Irish, are published bi-lingually and that job adverts and other work related materials are posted bi-lingually. We examined our Social Media Irish Language work during the first quarter and agreed that this would be a standing item in our work. Currently we have the advantage of Conor and Sinéad Byrne both fluent Gaeilge speakers working in the project.

Action 4. Glór don Phobal

The Glór newsletter ALWAYS maintains its lead story & headline in Irish and 25% of content. 73 Irish language articles and notices were posted/published during 2013, many of which were published through the Glór. We re-designed a few of the recurring features to utilise older style celtic scripts.

Action 5. Employment and Training adverts/notices

All posts/placements were advertised bi-lingually. Three of the five assisted employment appointments (Community Employment, TÚS – [new worker starting 24th November] and JobBridge) were made to fluent Irish speakers. Irish language work had been identified as part of these workers' work plans.

Action 6. Use of Gaeilge for Project Titles

The project worked to ensure Irish reports and use of Irish names for project work through 2016.

Action 7. Youth Work Strands

Irish is actively promoted in our Páistí le Chéile pre-school project, with rhymes and nursery books available, Irish assistance was provided to children participating in Óige Le Chéile after-schools project. We will consider our project's input to the Seachtain na Gaeilge 2016 programme as well. We will establish a TeamTeanga in the YARD project to work with young people to co-create a youth language policy for the YARD for 2016. We would also devise an Arts and Culture project for the YARD in 2016 that would explore Irish placenames and their meaning and origins.

Action 8.

We succeeded in appointing a JobBridge intern to undertake social media and youth support worker who are fluent Irish speakers. These posts will run until June 2016. We are also seeking a First Steps (under 25 years intern) and will appoint an Irish speaker if at all possible to this position as well

Action 9.

Have item on every agenda of the Board Meetings to review and discuss our Irish Language work, review policy and discuss our Plean Teanga work at local level.

Action 10.

The company will establish an Irish Language Learning Support Bursary to part-fund the training (and where appropriate exam fees) for all core staff, directors, trainees and volunteers.